We Claim:

1. An apparatus for equipping a surgical stapling device to provide reinforced surgical fastener suture lines, comprising:

an alignment means comprising a substantially planar frame, said frame comprising:

a first surface comprising a first guide channel wall extending therefrom, and a second surface apposed to said first surface and comprising a second guide channel wall extending therefrom; and

a receiving means comprising first and second apposed surfaces,

said first guide channel wall and said first surface of said receiving means defining a first guide channel and said second guide channel wall and said second surface of said receiving means defining a second guide channel,

a first elastomeric foam surgical buttress comprising a first surface for contacting said receiving means and a second surface apposed to said first surface for contacting said stapling device, said first buttress disposed within said first guide channel and on said first surface of said receiving means,

a second elastomeric foam surgical buttress comprising a first surface for contacting said receiving means and a second surface apposed to said first surface for contacting said stapling device, said second buttress disposed within said second guide channel and on said second surface of said receiving means; and

means for retaining said first and second buttresses on said first and second surfaces of said receiving means.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first and said second elastomeric foam buttresses comprises an aliphatic polyester.

3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said aliphatic polyester is selected from the group consisting of copolymers of epsilon-caprolactone and glycolide, epsilon-caprolactone and lactide, para-dioxanone and lactide, epsilon-caprolactone and para-dioxanon, para-dioxanone and trimethylene carbonate, trimethylene carbonate and glycolide, and trimethylene carbonate and lactide.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising an adhesive disposed upon said second surface of said first and second foam buttresses to provide releasable attachment of said foam buttresses to said surgical stapling device upon contact therewith.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said adhesive is biocompatible.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said adhesive is biodegradable.

7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said retaining means comprises a retention channel integral with and between said first and second guide channel walls and said receiving means for cooperating with said foam buttresses to provide retention of said foam buttresses on said receiving means prior to contact with said stapling device.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said first and second foam buttresses further comprise means for cooperating with said retention channels to provide releasable retention of said buttresses on said receiving means prior to contact with said stapling device.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said means for cooperating with said retention channels comprises tabs integral with and extending laterally from said first and second foam buttresses in sufficient number and location along said foam buttresses to provide retention of said buttresses on said receiving means.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said tabs are square, rectangular, half circular, trapezoid or triangular.

11. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said retaining means comprises a biocompatible adhesive disposed between said receiving means and said first surface of said first and second foam buttresses.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said adhesive is biodegradable.